

California's 2003 Wild Pig Harvest

by Cris Langner

The 2002/2003 wild pig hunting season extended from July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003 with no daily possession or seasonal bag limits. A total of 169,146 pig tags were sold, including 33,663 (books of five) resident tags and 831 nonresident tags. Successful hunters voluntarily returned 5,781 tags. As of the 2004 license year, DFG will no longer sell books of pig tags; instead all tags will be sold individually.

Of the 5,781 pigs reported taken, 3,062, or 53 percent, were harvested from the Central Coast Region (CCR). CCR has consistently reported the highest take, but the statewide percentage has been steadily decreasing over the past eight years. The proportion of tags in CCR has declined from an all time high of 72.4 percent to 53 percent, a decrease of 19.4. In contrast, the San Joaquin Valley-Southern Sierra Region has shown an increase in reported take of 15.3 percent. All other regions have remained fairly constant.

The success rates for particular hunting methods are as follows: hunters using rifles accounted for the largest proportion of the harvest, with 90 percent (5,200) of the total take. Archery hunters, though fewer, took 305 pigs, which accounted for 5.3 percent of the harvest. Although the number of archery hunters is down, the percentages are up, indicating that fewer hunters are taking a larger percentage of the take. All other hunting methods combined accounted for the remaining 4.7 percent (276).

Of the total reported pigs taken, 2,907 (50.3 percent) were males and 2,772 (48 percent) were females. As in the past, most pigs (94.7 percent) were taken on private lands. The remaining 5.2 percent were taken on public lands, like federal and state owned lands, as well as military bases. This year 7.9 percent (459) of pig hunters used trailing hounds and 28 percent (1,620) hunted within their county of residence.

Reported Wild Pig Take 1995-2003

County	95/96	96/97	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03
Northern California-North Coast Region								
Humboldt	33	26	43	30	20	9	37	57
Modoc	0	0	0	3	0	0	4	3
Shasta	33	22	53	55	84	62	84	80
Siskiyou	12	12	21	17	8	4	7	7
Tehama	265	268	380	493	398	450	495	311
Trinity	14	21	23	8	16	34	30	52
Totals	357	349	520	606	526	559	657	510
% of	6.8	7.5	9.4	7.8	8.9	8.7	8.5	8.8
Statewide Harvest								
Sacramento Valley-Central Sierra Region								
Amador	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Butte	0	1	0	1	2	2	1	2
Calaveras	2	3	6	2	1	11	2	2
Colusa	76	73	151	117	64	105	158	100
El Dorado	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Glenn	26	23	51	67	60	114	172	153
Nevada	7	4	17	9	7	15	13	37
Placer	2	6	2	3	0	10	2	6
Sacramento	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
San Joaquin	21	13	25	60	29	26	19	26
Solano	36	26	30	49	40	49	35	11
Sutter	17	31	64	59	45	46	92	63
Yolo	4	3	4	19	11	14	34	28
Yuba	1	1	4	1	0	9	4	1
Totals	193	184	355	388	259	403	532	430
% of	3.7	4.0	6.4	4.9	4.4	6.3	6.8	7.4
Statewide Harvest								
Central Coast Region								
Alameda	48	48	68	97	45	34	30	23
Contra Costa	8	6	9	21	15	13	13	9
Lake	43	33	42	47	28	17	53	114
Mendocino	339	291	299	286	164	205	267	287
Monterey	1,011	935	1,194	2,063	1,621	1,893	1,944	1,199
Napa	80	75	66	65	24	16	8	5
San Benito	394	371	359	717	461	480	703	361
San Luis Obispo	600	529	522	544	541	513	523	348
San Mateo	1	0	1	6	4	24	12	3
Santa Clara	751	541	611	863	440	375	461	259
Santa Cruz	61	48	53	39	48	92	114	57
Sonoma	458	377	379	402	306	280	326	397
CCR Totals	3,794	3,254	3,603	5,150	3,697	3,942	4,454	3,062
% of	72.4	70.1	65.1	65.8	62.6	61.5	57.3	53.0
Statewide Harvest								
San Joaquin Valley-Southern Sierra Region								
Fresno	160	161	270	241	208	190	276	183
Kern	44	89	143	319	487	570	863	980
Kings	6	3	5	3	27	30	15	16
Madera	33	30	30	21	36	74	68	48
Mariposa	53	61	72	51	54	77	91	59
Merced	41	33	50	138	101	79	95	75
Stanislaus	154	143	183	303	103	122	106	68
Tulare	71	104	90	97	64	93	146	79
Tuolumne	2	0	0	6	1	0	0	0
SVSSR Totals	564	624	843	1,179	1,081	1,235	1,660	1,508
% of	10.8	13.4	15.2	15.1	18.3	19.2	21.4	26.1
Statewide Harvest								
South Coast Region								
Los Angeles	54	28	12	89	46	22	4	2
San Diego	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0
Santa Barbara	254	189	185	337	247	231	430	247
Ventura	7	1	5	7	12	6	7	9
SCR Totals	315	219	202	433	305	259	441	258
% of	6.0	4.7	3.6	5.5	5.2	4.0	5.7	4.5
Statewide Harvest								
Eastern Sierra-Inland Deserts Region								
Riverside	9	7	7	19	17	5	6	9
San Bernardino	1	1	3	5	2	3	4	0
Unknown	6	5	5	43	20	20	16	4
ESIDR Totals	16	13	15	67	39	28	26	13
% of	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.9	0.6	0.3	.33	0.2
Statewide Harvest								
Total	5,239	4,643	5,538	7,823	5,907	6,418	7,770	5,781